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# Thinking in Public

CPYRGHT

"MURDER WILL OUT"

STATINTL

The case of Povl Bang-Jensen, Danish diplomat and ousted assistant secretary of the UN Committee on Hungary, whose body was found in a park in the outskirts of New York City on Thanksgiving day of 1959, is closed — according to the New York police, who called his death suicide.

Release by the Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary of its lengthy report on the investigation of the various mysteries involved seems likely to reopen it.

In the introduction, outlining the concern of the subcommittee in the national security aspects of the case, Senator Thomas J. Dodd, vice chairman says: "If proper security measures did not exist in the UN's Hungarian investigation Bang-Jensen was fired for refusing to reveal the names of secret witnesses who feared Soviet reprisal) it was important to determine how this would affect our national security . . . If Bang-Jensen was approached by defectors who had information concerning Soviet penetration of the UN Secretariat and of American intelligence, this had a very direct bearing on our national security; and if he had in fact attempted to convey this information personally to Mr.

Allen Dulles but had been unable to do so, then this, too, was directly relevant.

"Finally, if Bang-Jensen's death was not suicide, if he was the victim of political assassins operating on American soil, as some suspected, again the national security would be involved."

Testimony of Mrs. Bang-Jensen and of Judge Robert Morris, former chief counsel of the subcommittee, based on conversations with the deceased, emphasized Bang-Jensen's conviction of Red infiltration of the UN, the CIA and the State Department, his frustration at his inability to impart what he knew to the head of CIA or to secure hearings and asylum for the defectors.

"It is the opinion of this report, however," states the subcommittee in its summary of facts and findings, "that the finding of suicide was based on incomplete evidence. There are too many solid arguments against suicide, too many unanswered questions, too many serious reasons for suspecting Soviet motivation and the possibility of Soviet implication.

"If Bang-Jensen did not commit suicide, he was the victim of political murder dressed up as suicide. While the Kremlin maintains a terror apparatus for the purpose of liquidating enemies and suspects, it must have serious motivation before it issues instructions for murder. It is the opinion of this report that such motivation probably did exist in the case of Povl Bang-Jensen."

But if the New York police department slighted its duty, so, we think, did some more highly-placed American officials long before the sorely-tried Bang-Jensen became a police case. Plainly, there is a lot more to be known about the case in New York and Washington, too.